tic raw materials and other inputs are taken care of in the fixation of input-output norms for various products covered under the Duty Exemption Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARM): (a) to (c) Since most of the input-output norms are fixed on quantitative terms, the question of extra imports because of quality differences between the imported and domestic raw-materials, will not normally arise.

Release of funds for the annual plan of Punjab

857. SHRI 1QBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the full amount of funds/grants sanctioned for the Annual Plan of Punjab during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTERT OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATON (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Central Plan Funds/Grants sanctioned for the Annual Plan of the States are released in instalments in accordance with a decided pattern. While the normal Central Assistance is released on monthly basis the Small Savings Loans are released on the basis of actual collection by the State Government. The Additional Central Assistance for externally aided projects are released on reimbursement basis. The Special Plan Loan is also released in instalments. Details of allocation and release of Central Plan Funds made so far fo>r Punjab during 1995-96 are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Items		Amounts	
		Alio-rated	Released
(i) Normal Assistance	Central	212.92	88.50
(ii) Special Plan	Loan	600.00	200.00
(iii) ACA for	EAPs	155.00	27.72
(iv) Small Savings Loans		425.00-	239.61

Problem of unemployment

858. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken effective steps to solve the problem of unemployment in the country, particularly in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central assistance made for them during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Employment has been given a major thrust in the development strategy of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97). Accordingly, the plan calls for accelerated employment generation through faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas with relatively high employment potential. Besides, Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Special Employment Programmes are also being implemented in all States including Gujarat and Maharashtra, important among which are the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRy) and the Central Sector Self Em-